

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 L-01 INR-05 EB-03 SP-02

/033 W

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R 051717Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 1586

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LIMDIS

FOR WYROUGH ARA/PAN FROM BLACKEN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: LANDS AND WATERS USE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR OTHER USG AGENCIES: II FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

1. THIS IS THE SECOND OF SEVERAL MESSAGES DEALING WITH LANDS AND WATERS IN THE CANAL ZONE CURRENTLY IN USE BY OTHER AGENCIES OF THE US GOVERNMENT, AND PROVIDES DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO CURRENT USE AND REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

2. TOTALS: FAA REQUIREMENTS AS DESCRIBED BELOW TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 365 ACRES IN NINE SEPARATE OPERATIONAL LOCATIONS WITHIN CANAL ZONE (OF WHICH ONE FACILITY ACCOUNTS FOR 293 ACRES) NOT COUNTING CERTAIN ACCESS ROAD OR UTILITY ACCESS REQUIREMENTS, AND APPROXIMATELY 103.8 ADDITIONAL ACRES IN RESIDENTIAL USE, FOR A TOTAL REQUIREMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 469 ACRES OF LAND.

3. JUSTIFICATION: FAA STATES THAT PARCELS OF LAND DESCRIBED BELOW INCLUDING ACCESS ROADS TO FACILITIES LOCATED ON THEM AND FACILITIES THEMSELVES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORT OF AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONS WITHIN AREA SERVICED BY FAA PANAMA.

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4. GENERAL CONDITIONS: FAA CONSIDERS THAT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHO HOLDS TITLE TO REAL ESTATE IT DESIRES TO USE, SO LONG AS THE LAND IS RESERVED FOR THE PRIMARY USE OF THE AGENCY PROVIDING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SERVICES--AT THIS TIME THE FAA-WITH ANY SHARING OF THE SPACE FOR OTHER PURPOSES SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE PRIMARY USER. UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO SUCH LANDS FOR OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE PURPOSES MUST BE AFFORDED TO THE PRIMARY USER (I.E., ACCESS ROADS MUST BE MAINTAINED AND FREEDOM OF PASSAGE AT ALL TIMES ALONG THEM MUST BE ASSURED).

5. MILITARY MISSION AND RECOVERY RIGHTS: FAA NOTES THAT IT HAS A DUAL MISSION, IN THAT ALONG WITH PROVISION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES FOR CIVIL AVIATION IN THE CANAL ZONE, PANAMA AND SURROUNDING AIRSPACE, IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNITED STATES MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND ITS FACILITIES HERE HAVE A ROLE IN AIR DEFENSE PLANNING FOR THE CANAL. FAA DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS IN ITSELF AS JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION OF ITS LAND USE REQUIREMENTS IN CANAL DEFENSE CATEGORY, AND WOULD PREFER SPECIAL REGIME GOVERNING ITS OWN USE UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION CATEGORY. MUCH OF FAA'S FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT WERE ORIGINALLY PROVIDED BY MILITARY, AND IN EVENT FAA WERE TO CEASE OPERATIONS HERE, IT IS BOUND UNDER INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO AFFORD TO MILITARY RIGHT TO RECOVER ANY OR ALL SUCH EQUIPMENT OR FACILITIES. FOUR FACILITIES (I.E., FAA HEADQUARTERS, PERICO ISLAND, CERRO GALERA AND SEMAPHORE HULL, DESCRIBED BELOW) ARE CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN US MILITARY CONTINGENCY PLANNING AS ESSENTIAL FACILITIES TO BE GUARDED IN EMERGENCIES. HOWEVER, OTHER FACILITIES ARE INVOLVED IN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS AS WELL, AND FAA CONSIDERS THAT IN EVENT OF TERMINATION OF FAA OPERATION, MILITARY WOULD WISH TO HAVE ALL FACILITIES REVERT TO IT FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AND AIR DEFENSE REASONS; USSOUTHCOM REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT DURING OUR MEETING INFORMALLY CONCURRED IN THIS ASSUMPTION. ACCORDINGLY, ALTHOUGH FAA FACILITIES CAN BE CONSIDERED AS AREAS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION, THERE SHOULD ALSO BE AGREEMENT IN CONCEPT THAT ITS FACILITIES WOULD REVERT TO STATUS AS DEFENSE AREAS (BUT PERHAPS UNDER SPECIAL REGIME AS MILITARY AREAS OF COORDINATION) SHOULD FAA CEASE OPERATIONS, UNLESS OTHERWISE MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN US AND PANAMA.

6. FOLLOWING IS LISTING OF FAA INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES:  
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7. FAA BUILDING - AREA HEADQUARTERS OFFICES, ENGINEERING, AIR ROUTE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER, INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SERVICE STATION: MAIN BUILDING AND OUTBUILDINGS LOCATED ON 26.04 ACRE PLOT, IRREGULAR BUT ROUGHLY TRIANGULAR SHAPE, FENCED INCLUDING ANTENNA FARM, BOUNDED BY CURUNDU ROAD AND ALBROOK AFB FENCE, COORDINATES PV 591913-594917-596915 (SHEET 4242I, PANAMA).

8. FAA ENGINEERING SUPPORT (P&S) SHOP - ONE BUILDING ON 0.19 ACRE PLOT ADJACENT TO GAILLARD HIGHWAY, NEAR TO BUT NONCONTIGUOUS WITH HEADQUARTERS PLOT, AT COORDINATES PV 593913 (SHEET 4242I, PANAMA).

9. ANCON HILL - MICROWAVE LINK REPEATER STATION - LOCATED ON 0.36 ACRE PLOT THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WAY UP THE HILL AT COORDINATES PV 594906 (SHEET 424I, PANAMA).

10. ANCON HILL - VHF/UHF COMMUNICATION STATION AND TABOGA LINK - ONE BUILDING ON 0.14 ACRE PLOT AT COORDINATES PV 595902 (SHEET 4242I, PANAMA) AND AN ADJACENT PLOT OF APPROXIMATELY 30 SQ. FT. ON WHICH A DIRECTION FINDER IS LOCATED. NOTE: WHILE PERSONNEL MOVEMENT IN VICINITY OF THIS FACILITY WOULD BE NO SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT IN OPERATIONS, IN EVENT PANAMA DESIRES IN FUTURE TO CONSTRUCT SOME FORM OF TOURIST OR OTHER FACILITY ATOP HILL, FAA WOULD DESIRE PRIOR ASSURANCE OF ENGINEERING ACCOMMODATION WHICH WOULD PUT ITS ANTENNAS ON TOP OF ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION TO SECURE UNIMPEDED TRANSMISSION. FAA ENGINEER STATED THIS SHOULD BE TECHNICALLY SIMPLE PROPOSITION, AS IT IS DONE ROUTINELY IN STRUCTURE OR TOWER CONSTRUCTION ELSEWHERE.

1. ANCON HILL - UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE CABLE AND CABLE DUCTS LOCATED ON A STRIP OF LAND 20 FT. BY 2,248 FT. IN LENGTH, COMPRISING 1.03 ACRES LOCATED ON QUARRY HEIGHTS MILITARY RESERVATION (EXACT COORDINATES NOT SPECIFIED AS DETAIL DRAWING TO BE SUPPLIED BY FAA).

12. PERICO ISLAND - PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RADAR, AND COMMUNICATIONS LINK, LOCATED AT HIGHEST POINT OF ISLAND AT COORDINATES PV 623855 (SHEET 4242I, PANAMA), WITH ACCESS ROAD FROM CAUSEWAY AT BASE OF ISLAND, RIGHTS TO UTILITIES LINES FROM BASE TO RADAR SITE, AND WATER PUMPING STATION AND TRANSFORMER SITE AT CONFIDENTIAL

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BASE ADJACENT TO CAUSEWAY. NOTE: PERICO ISLAND IS NOW A PART OF FORT GRANT MILITARY RESERVATION. ISLAND IS SMALL (APPROX. 25 ACRES) AND HIGH, AND ACCESS ROAD RUNS IN SPIRAL AROUND IT TO TOP. ONLY OTHER FACILITIES ON ISLAND ARE ABANDONED COAST-DEFENSE BATTERY AND MAGAZINE SITES. CURRENT MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH USSOUTHCOM SPECIFIES ONLY FAA USE RIGHTS TO RADAR SITE, ACCESS ROAD AND FACILITIES AT BASE OF HILL. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF SIZE AND CONFIGURATION OF ISLAND, FAA CONSIDERS IT IMPRACTICAL IN OPERATIONAL TERMS TO SPECIFY SATISFACTORY LIMITS TO ITS REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT OTHER USERS ON ISLAND WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT TO RADAR FACILITIES. ACCORDINGLY, FAA DESIRES THAT ITS USE REQUIREMENT INCLUDE ENTIRE ISLAND EXCEPT FOR CAUSEWAY WHICH SKIRTS ITS BASE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 L-01 INR-05 EB-03 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6941

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PANAMA 1586

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FOR WYROUGH ARA/PAN FROM BLACKEN

13. CERRO GALERA - RADIO COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS AND MICROWAVE LINK, ONE BUILDING LOCATED ON A PLOT OF APPROXIMATELY 0.8 ACRE NEAR BOUNDARY OF HOWARD AFB AT COORDINATES PV 514870 (SHEET 4242I, PANAMA), PLUS ACCESS ROAD FROM THATCHER HIGHWAY MARKED K-6 ON MAP SHEET, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 15.69 ACRES OF LAND, AND POWER CABLE RIGHT OF WAY GENERALLY PARALLEL TO K-6 ROAD TO WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED FEET OF THATCHER HIGHWAY, AND THENCE GENERALLY PARALLEL TO THATCHER HIGHWAY TO BOUNDARY OF US NAVY ARRAIJAN TANK FARM (POWER FOR THIS FACILITY IS NOW PROVIDED BY US NAVY VIA THIS CABLE FROM ARRAIJAN).

14. SEMIPHORE HILL - LONG RANGE RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS LINK, ONE BUILDING LOCATED ON A PLOT APPROXIMATELY 250 FT. SQUARE, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 1.43 ACRES ON SUMMIT OF HILL AT COORDINATES PA 485035 (SHEET 4243II, GAMBOA), PLUS ACCESS ROAD AND GENERALLY PARALLEL WATER AND POWER ACCESS FOLLOWING A WINDING COURSE OF GAILLARD HIGHWAY AT COORDINATES PA 475029, PLUS USE OF ONE OUTBUILDING, AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO IT, LOCATED ON SOUTHERN SIDE OF RAILROAD AT COORDINATES PA 473028.

15. TELFERS ISLAND - INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SERVICE TRANSMITTING STATION AND ANTENNA FARM LOCATED ON A PLOT OF APPROXIMATELY 293 ACRES, WITH BOUNDARIES APPROXIMATELY AS INDICATED BY BROKEN  
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LINES ON MAP SHEET IN IRREGULAR BUT ROUGHLY QUADRILATERAL AREA BOUNDED BY COORDINATES PA 190286-192302-201299-195286 (SHEET 4243 IV, GATUN). ENTIRE AREA IS NOT FENCED. SITE INCLUDES TWO BUILDINGS LOCATED WITHIN A 200 FT. BY 300 FT. FENCED ENCLOSURE AT COORDINATES PA 195292. PLOT INCLUDES ACCESS ROAD INDICATED ON MAP FROM BUILDINGS TO EDGE OF PLOT NEAR RAILROAD, AND FAA REQUIRES ACCESS ON ROAD INDICATED ON MAP FROM EDGE OF PLOT TO HIGHWAY R-6. NOTE: AT TIME OF THIS INQUIRY, LOCAL FAA ADVISED US INFORMALLY THAT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN STATES FURTHER SOUTH, IT MIGHT, WITHIN A YEAR OR SO, BE CONSIDERING IDEA OF DISPENSING WITH TELFERS ISLAND FACILITY, AND RELOCATING THIS FUNCTION SOMEWHERE ON PACIFIC SIDE, ON A MUCH SMALLER SITE, CLOSER TO FAA HEADQUARTERS. THEY HAD NO IDEA, EVEN TENTATIVE, AS TO POSSIBLE PACIFIC SIDE LOCATION FOR SUCH FACILITY, AND STRESSED THAT THIS WOULD BE HIGHLY CONTINGENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE URGED FAA TO SEEK TO DETERMINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER IT WILL WISH TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THIS IDEA, AND TO DEVELOP SOME IDEA OF POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR PACIFIC SIDE FACILITY IF ONE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED.

16. FRANCE FIELD - VORTAC AIR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND COMMUNICATIONS AIDS, ONE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON APPROXIMATELY 1.2 ACRES OF LAND ON GROUNDS OF NEW FRANCE FIELD, IN NARROW AND ROUGHLY RECTANGULAR PLOT BETWEEN COORDINATES PA 245349-249349 (SHEET 4244 III, COLON), ALONG WITH POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS BURIED CABLES WHICH CROSS TAXIWAY NORTH OF FACILITY AND GENERALLY RUN PARALLEL TO BORDER OF FRANCE FIELD AND ACCESS ROAD INDICATED ON MAP, TO JUNCTIONS WITH MILITARY POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLIES. NOTE: FAA ADVISES THAT ANY MORE THAN MINIMAL PERSONNEL MOVEMENT IN VICINITY OF THIS FACILITY WOULD DISRUPT OPERATION OF THESE AIR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, AND WILL REQUIRE ASSURANCE THAT AREA WITHIN APPROXIMATELY 1,500 FT. IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM BOUNDARIES OF THIS PLOT BE RESTRICTED FOR NORMAL PERSONNEL ACCESS OR FOR ABOVEGROUND CONSTRUCTION WHICH MIGHT IMPEDE RADAR SIGNALS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOP HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST IN SEEING NEW FRANCE FIELD REOPENED FOR COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE TO COLON AREA. FAA STATES THAT USE AS AIRPORT WOULD NOT IMPAIR VORTAC OPERATIONS FROM THIS SITE.

17. COCO SOLO HOUSING - FOUR DUPLEX HOUSING UNITS ARE OWNED BY  
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FAA AND USED BY FAA PERSONNEL SERVING AT ATLANTIC SIDE FACILITIES, LOCATED ON A ROUGHLY RECTANGULAR 3.3 ACRE PLOT ON SOUTH SIDE OF MARGARITA BAY BETWEEN COORDINATED PA 223366-225366 (SHEET 4244 III,

COLON).

18. CARDENAS HOUSING - APPROXIMATELY 54 SINGLE AND DUPLEX HOUSING UNITS ARE OWNED BY FAA AND USED BY FAA PERSONNEL (AND SOME FHWA PERSONNEL) ASSIGNED IN CANAL ZONE, LOCATED ON A HIGHLY IRREGULAR PARCEL OF APPROXIMATELY 100.5 ACRES (GENERAL SHAPE LIKE A LETTER "F" WITH EXTENDED TOP CROSSBAR) GENERALLY WITHIN AREA ENCLOSED BY COORDINATES PV 573948-577949-575945 (SHEET 4242 I, PANAMA). INCLUDES ROUGHLY ONE MILE OF ACCESS ROAD INDICATED ON MAP, WHOSE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ARE FUNDED BY FAA, AND SUNDRY WATER AND SEWER MAINS. DOES NOT INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY 14 HOUSING UNITS RECENTLY BUILT BY PANCANAL CONTIGUOUS TO CARDENAS AT NORTHEAST CORNER OF FAA HOLDING, AND TWO CHURCH STRUCTURES AUTHORIZED BY PANCANAL ON PLOTS ADJACENT TO FAA ACCESS ROAD.

19. TABOGA ISLAND - VORTAC AIR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND COMMUNICATIONS AIDS HOUSED IN A SINGLE BUILDING LOCATED ON ROUGHLY 9.94 ACRES OF LAND AT SUMMIT OF ISLAND. THIS LAND IS NOT INCLUDED IN GENERAL COMPUTATIONS OF FAA CANAL ZONE LANDS AND WATERS REQUIREMENTS, SINCE LAND IN QUESTION (EVERYTHING ABOVE THE 900-FOOT LINE ON TABOGA) IS LOCATED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE REPUBLIC, AND WAS DEEDED TO THE US GOVERNMENT AT AN EARLIER DATE. FACILITIES HERE ARE, FAA ADVISES, IMPORTANT AND THEIR LOSS WOULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR CIVIL AND MILITARY FLIGHTS; COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH TABOGA IS ONE OF IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF ANCON HILL INSTALLATION DESCRIBED IN PARA 10 ABOVE. FURTHER, ITS OPERATION WOULD BE DISRUPTED BY UNDUE PERSONNEL MOVEMENT AND/OR CONSTRUCTION IN MANNER SIMILAR TO FRANCE FIELD VORTAC DESCRIBED IN PARA 16. FAA NOW HOLDS THIS LAND AND ACCESS RIGHTS ON TABOGA UNDER LAND LICENSE FROM GOVERNOR OF CANAL ZONE. ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CANAL ZONE LANDS AND WATERS MATTER, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USG MIGHT CONSIDER THAT AT SOME POINT PRIOR TO OR AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW TREATY, TITLE TO THIS LAND MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED FROM GOVERNOR OF CANAL ZONE (WHO PRESUMABLY HOLDS IT SINCE HE ACCORDED LAND LICENSE TO FAA FOR USE) TO FAA PROPER, OR TO ITS PARENT AGENCY, DOT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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